

# Cultivating C·O·N·N·E·C·T·I·O·N·S

INDIANA STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE • DIVISION OF SOIL CONSERVATION

Cultivating Connections

Volume 3 Issue 6

## INDIANA STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE CONNECTIONS

### Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program Team Receives Award

On May 8, 2008 the Indiana State Department of Agriculture-Division of Soil Conservation's (ISDA-DSC) Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) Team received a 2008 Governor's Public Service Achievement Award during a statehouse ceremony. The awards are co-sponsored by the Office of the Governor and the State Personnel Department during Public Service Recognition Week each year.



Below is an excerpt from the program honoring the ISDA-DSC CREP team:

CREP is a USDA program available to states to enhance financial incentives and support for landowners. The program allows state-employed conservationists to implement conservation practices to reduce agriculture's impact on the environment, wildlife, water and soil. The team has not only developed the administrative process, but has also worked side-by-side with landowners to plan, survey and install the practices. To date, there are 3,959

total obligated acres to Indiana's CREP or more than half of the state's goal. This brings \$7.9 million to our state to assist in conservation implementation. The state's designated priority areas are in three watersheds and there are plans to expand the program to five more watersheds near the Wabash River.

### 2008 Indiana Conservation State Photo Contest

Do you have an eye for photography? Would you like to be featured in the Indiana Conservation State Photo Gallery exhibit? Would you like your photos to help get more conservation on the ground?

ISDA-DSC invites you to participate in the 2008 Indiana Conservation State Photo Contest. Contest winners will have their winning photographs professionally framed and featured in the Indiana Conservation State Photo Gallery exhibit at a venue to be announced in the fall of 2008. All contest submissions will be considered for future ISDA-DSC publications, Web sites and newsletters. Collected photos will be made available to Indiana Conservation Partnership (ICP) partners and Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD)



statewide for their outreach needs.

ISDA-DSC is currently accepting photographs in the following categories:

- Conservation in action
- Water uses and impacts
- Faces of conservation
- Conservation up-close
- On the farm

Contest guidelines:

- SWCD employees, SWCD supervisors, ISDA and ICP staff and the general public are all encouraged to submit images for consideration.
- Applicants may submit as many entries as they wish.
- Applicants may only submit each photo once and it should be accompanied by a completed entry form.
- Photos should be submitted in TIFF (preferred) or JPG format at a resolution of 300 dpi.
- All images and entry forms must be submitted electronically to [cgoode@isda.in.gov](mailto:cgoode@isda.in.gov) or mailed in on cd to: ISDA-DSC Photo Contest, 101 W Ohio St., Suite 1200, Indianapolis, IN 46204.
- Entries must be received by September 30, 2008 (postmarked by September 25, 2008).

For more information or a list of contest category examples, go to <http://www.in.gov/isda/2328.htm>.

### **State Soil Conservation Board to Develop Business Plan**

By Nola Gentry, State Soil Conservation Board (SSCB) Chair

The ICP developed *20/20: The ICP's Vision for the Future* in 2006 as the commitment of the Cooperative Conservation Initiative. The SSCB has been working on the initiatives outlined in this plan but has not put together a specific SSCB plan.

The SSCB provides guidance and coordination to the state's 92 SWCD's as the Districts provide local leadership on protecting Indiana's soil and water resources. We ask that all 92 SWCD's have a business plan that addresses the natural resource concerns in their districts. As a part of "walking the talk," the SSCB will be developing its own business plan over the next several months to address natural resource concerns. We have done this informally for the past two years with our Clean Water Indiana (CWI) grants program covering nutrient and sediment reduction and other identified concerns.

In an effort to more clearly define the direction of the SSCB and the CWI Grants Program that we administer, we will develop a 2010-2011 business plan that will serve as a guidance document for programs. We think this process will reassert our belief in each SWCD having a sound business plan and will also give the SSCB guidance when working on new programs to safeguard and improve Indiana's soil and water resources.

The SSCB plans to gather SWCD input during this process and is considering such opportunities as roundtables and/or listening sessions. We look forward to working with you on this important endeavor.

### **SSCB to Visit Rochester in June**

The next SSCB meeting will be on June 10, 2008 at 9 a.m. (Eastern) at the Manitou Banquet Hall, 901 East 9th Street, Rochester, Ind. A lunch and two-stage ditch site tour will follow the meeting. For further information, contact Kelly Gentry at [kgentry@isda.in.gov](mailto:kgentry@isda.in.gov).

## CLEAN WATER INDIANA CONNECTIONS

### Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program Update

PIGEON HIGHLAND WATERSHED			
County	Obligated Acres	Obligated Funds	Estimated Federal Leverage
Gibson	60.8	\$6,080.00	\$177,292.80
Posey	57.9	\$13,974.00	\$168,836.40
Vanderburgh	163.8	\$38,500.00	\$477,640.80
Warrick	81.2	\$10,700.00	\$236,779.20
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>363.7</b>	<b>\$69,254.00</b>	<b>\$1,060,549.20</b>

TIPPECANOE WATERSHED			
County	Obligated Acres	Obligated Funds	Estimated Federal Leverage
Benton	2.6	\$260.00	\$7,581.60
Cass	47	\$17,600.00	\$137,052.00
Fulton	320.2	\$34,330.00	\$933,703.20
Jasper	97.7	\$19,880.00	\$284,893.20
Kosciusko	190.8	\$91,685.00	\$556,372.80
Marshall	45.5	\$4,760.00	\$132,678.00
Noble	7.7	\$770.00	\$22,453.20
Pulaski	1142.08	\$154,870.00	\$3,330,305.28
Starke	219.2	\$29,750.00	\$639,187.20
White	199.6	\$38,680.00	\$582,033.60
Whitley	15.5	\$1,700.00	\$45,198.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2287.88</b>	<b>\$394,285.00</b>	<b>\$6,671,458.08</b>

UPPER WHITE WATERSHED			
County	Obligated Acres	Obligated Funds	Estimated Federal Leverage
Boone	24.5	\$3,320.00	\$71,442.00
Delaware	221.2	\$59,290.00	\$645,019.20
Hamilton	367.8	\$192,725.00	\$1,072,504.80
Hendricks	49.1	\$9,110.00	\$143,175.60
Henry	9.7	\$3,880.00	\$28,285.20
Madison	597.1	\$360,420.00	\$1,741,143.60
Randolph	172.3	\$45,970.00	\$502,426.80
Tipton	81.9	\$12,865.00	\$238,820.40
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1523.6</b>	<b>\$687,580.00</b>	<b>\$4,442,817.60</b>

### Clean Water Indiana Grants Update

#### We All Live Down Stream-Conservation Marketing Initiative Grant



The 82 districts that are participating in this year's Conservation Marketing Initiative Grant (CMIG) have received their initial 95 percent payment of \$1,900. Funds will be used to put on some type of educational event focusing on nutrient management practices, as well as marketing and promoting the event. After the event, SWCD's will follow up with producers. The CMIG events will take place throughout the year, and the final 5 percent (\$100) of the grant will be paid out after the grant project is completed and all final reports are turned in. A list of CMIG

events is now available on the ISDA Web <http://www.in.gov/isda/2362.htm>. If you have updates to your listing, please contact your District Support Specialist (DSS) or email changes to [cgoode@isda.in.gov](mailto:cgoode@isda.in.gov).

#### Sediment and Nutrient Reduction Grant

The 23 SWCD's that received a Sediment and Nutrient Reduction Grant (SNRG) have been paid their initial payment of 95 percent of the total grant awarded. These are one-year projects that range from \$3,000-10,000 and focus on sediment and nutrient reduction.

#### Clean Water Indiana Match-Annual Financial Reports

Funds for the \$10,000 CWI Match based on District Annual Financial Reports (AFRs) have been paid out to those 91 Districts that met the requirements.

#### Conservation Consultation Initiative Program

The Conservation Consultation Initiative (CCI) Program is up and running with 33 crop consultants working with farmers throughout the Wabash Watershed. Resources and information have been emailed to all participants (ISDA staff, Crop Consultants, SWCDs), as well as being posted on our Web page. The five SWCDs administering this grant are collecting the information from the consultants and verifying that the practices are taking place on land within the watershed by using Geographic Information Systems GIS mapping systems. Thus far the SWCDs in each of the five watersheds have obligated anywhere from \$200 - \$2,000 for this program.

#### District Support



##### *Leadership Institute*

Three *Leadership in Change* workshops will be held this summer. Locations include West Lafayette in June, as well as Clarksville and Muncie in August. The Leadership in Change workshop is the first cornerstone of Leadership Institute's premiere program, Cornerstones of Leadership, a four-part leadership development workshop series tailored specifically to Indiana SWCD Supervisors.

There is an increasing need to prepare supervisors for the leadership challenges they face today and in the future. Equipping supervisors with leadership skills enables them to successfully operate in a rapidly changing environment. Participants in the Leadership in Change will gain valuable insight to address this need in the following areas:

- What is leadership as it relates to SWCDs and change
- Dealing with change in your SWCD
- Understanding yourself and others through the Myers-Briggs Personality Type Indicator
- Matching your skills and abilities with your position and responsibilities
- How you can best serve your organization

Each workshop will also include the following evening activities:

##### Purdue University, West Lafayette (June 26-27)

The West Lafayette workshop includes a tour of Mackey Arena, Mollenkopf Athletic Center and the Prescription Athletic Turf designed for Ross-Ade Football Stadium. The evening will conclude with a prime rib dinner in the stadium club house overlooking the campus and football field.

##### Holiday Inn Lakeview, Clarksville (August 1-2)

The Clarksville workshop includes a dinner cruise along the scenic Ohio River on the Star of Louisville yacht. The evening will include a dinner buffet with carving station serving prime rib, chicken and fish



entree, live DJ entertainment and dancing and the opportunity to visit with other District Supervisors.

Horizon Convention Center, Muncie (August 22-23)

The Muncie workshop includes an entertaining “hoot ‘n holler” country themed progressive dinner complete with a BBQ buffet. Also, take some time to visit the National Model Aviation Museum, the Minnetrista, the Ball Family Homes, the Home of Garfield and much more.

To learn more about these and other Leadership Institute workshops, please visit

<http://www.in.gov/isda/2638.htm>.

#### Rapid Watershed Assessment

The Rapid Watershed Assessment (RWA) is now available on the ISDA Web site:

<http://www.in.gov/isda/2732.htm>.

RWAs involve the collection of quantitative and qualitative data to develop a profile for each Indiana 8-digit watershed. Data includes:

- Physical Descriptions:
  - Acres of row crops and urban land
  - Confined livestock number
  - Feet of streams
- Resource Concerns:
  - Impaired water bodies
  - Karst areas
  - Wildlife resource concern areas
- Census and Social Data:
  - Full-time producers
  - Part-time producers
  - Minority producers
  - Current status of resources
  - No-till acres
  - Buffers
  - Wetlands

#### **PARTNERSHIP CONNECTIONS**

##### **Latest News and Newsletters of Interest:**

[Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts \(IASWCD\)'s Weekly Update](#)

[NRCS Hoosier Headlines](#)

##### **Resource Tool Box:**

[SSCB](#)

[IASWCD](#)

[Natural Resources Conservation Service](#)

[Purdue University](#)

[Indiana District Employee Association](#)